

San Angelo declared winner — again

By **DON WILLIAMS**
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The San Angelo chapter of the Pan American Golf Association can keep the trophy from the Quad City Shootout after all.

The outcome of the tournament, which was reversed on Sunday, was reversed again after Lubbock chapter officials determined that an Abilene player who was disqualified on the front nine should not have been allowed to compete on the back nine in the final round.

The difference helped give San Angelo a victory, 60 points to Abilene's 59½ in last weekend's four-team tournament at Shadow Hills Golf Course. A review of the corrected scoresheet also shows Abilene player Eric Dudash was awarded one-half point more than he should have been, and his total was reduced from 2½ to 2 in the four-way, match-play scoring format.

"We talked to the guys from San Angelo and Abilene, and let them know what we were doing," Gilbert Moreno of the PAGA Lubbock chapter said Thursday. "They were all pretty good about it. It was just whoever ended up the winner, they wanted to know who it was."

The annual tournament pits mostly minority golfers from Lubbock, Fort Worth, San Angelo and Abilene. Lubbock finished third with 57 points and Fort Worth compiled 31½.

San Angelo originally was declared a winner by one-half point at the conclusion of Sunday's round, and team members left town with the traveling trophy.

The outcome was reversed about 90 minutes later. After Abilene team captain Ricky Martinez asked for a review of scorecards, miscalculations were discovered, and Abilene was ruled the winner by 1½ points.

At the time, Abilene player Joe Hernandez felt vindicated. He had been disqualified on the ninth hole for not putting out a ball on the lip of the cup. With players competing for three points on the front nine and three more on the back nine, Hernandez continued on and was credited with scoring 1½ points for holes 10 through 18.

A copy of the tournament's rules for play provided to The A-J clearly advised players to putt out on all holes. Gimmes — picking up a ball near the cup — was not allowed, even if conceded by another player in the group.

Hernandez said a Lubbock player conceded the tap-in, and the San Angelo member of the foursome called for his disqualification when they left the green.

Hernandez's 1½ points for the back nine were wiped out in the review.

"That affected the whole thing," Moreno said. "We hated to do it to the fellow. But we had it

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Gilbert Moreno
PAGA, Lubbock chapter

on the rule sheet that there weren't going to be any gimmies. That was a local rule. Once we heard all sides of the story, we ended up disqualifying the fellow."

It was San Angelo's second

Quad City Shootout title in a row. Fort Worth won in a playoff in 1999, and San Angelo also beat Abilene when the event started as a head-to-head competition in 1997 and 1998.